ABSTRACT

Non-reusable, medicament-dispensing applicator electrodes adapted for use with an iontophoresis device for facilitating delivery of medication across the cutaneous membrane into adjacent underlying tissues and blood vessels. The embodiments of the iontophoresis electrode include an open mesh having cells in the medicament dispensing portions of the electrode which retain a medicament in the form of liquid, gel or ointment. The cells are adapted to contain and iontophoretically dispense and deliver medicament formulations, which have been previously approved for therapeutic use by cognizant regulatory authorities obviating the need for reformulation. The medicament-dispensing electrodes are composite or unitary in construction and may be useful in the treatment of acne and also genital herpes simplex infection which produces cutaneous lesions, including lesions above and below the waist. The delivery electrode, when used in accordance with the medicated electrode and method described herein, demonstrated >90% treatment efficacy in clinical trials for the treatment of genital herpes. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the dispensing electrode is adapted to be worn similarly to a glove thereby enabling the user to tactily position the medicament delivery electrode to make contact with the area to be treated; receiving current for iontophoretic transdermal delivery of medicament from a wrist-worn current driver. The electrode may also comprise a portion of one or more fingers of a glove or a whole palm to cover a larger area for self treatment. A glove having a large electrode area can be driven by a single current or a multichannel source such as described in prior patents by the present inventor.